



Connecticut Association of Centers for Independent Living  
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...Working for the full integration, independence, and civil rights of people with disabilities  
through Centers for Independent Living

**Testimony of Gary E Waterhouse, Executive Director  
CT Association of Centers for Independent Living**

**March 1, 2011**

**Human Services Committees Public Hearing Testimony**

Center for Disability Rights  
764A Campbell Ave.  
West Haven, CT 06516  
V 203-934-7077  
TDD 203-934-7079

Disabilities Network of  
Eastern CT  
238 West Town Street  
Norwich, CT 06360  
VTDD 860-823-1898

Disability Resource Center  
of Fairfield County  
80 Ferry Boulevard  
Suite 210  
Stratford, CT 06497  
V 203-378-6977  
TDD 203-378-3248

Independence Northwest  
1183 New Haven Rd.  
Naugatuck, CT 06770  
V 203-729-3299  
TDD 203-729-1281

Independence Unlimited  
Suite D  
151 New Park Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106  
V/TDD 860-523-5021

**Support- Proposed H.B. No. 5893 *AN ACT CONCERNING HOME AND  
COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH ACQUIRED  
BRAIN INJURY.***

The Connecticut Acquired Brain Injury Medicaid Waiver (*ABI Waiver*) gives hope and the promise of a better life to people with traumatic brain injury and their families. An Acquired Brain Injury (*ABI*) can be caused by a road accident, stroke, brain hemorrhage, infection, tumor, or blow to the head, among other things.

The management of ABI Patients includes three distinct phases:

1. The Acute Phase (intensive care unit - ICUs - Neurosurgery Unit)
2. The Post-Acute Phase (in which the Rehabilitation intervention involves the "Acute Rehabilitation Phase" and the initial steps of the Post-Acute Phase).
3. Late post-acute and Outcome Phase.

The majority of individuals with acquired brain injury return to the care of their family, and consequently families bear the brunt of the emotional and behavioral changes which can follow brain injury.

The disability community in Connecticut has advocated for home and community based services for over 20 years. Our priority has always been people that **REQUIRE** and are **ELIGIBLE** for Medicaid services under the Connecticut ABI waiver. *The current process unduly restricts access to Medicaid services to people on the ABI waiting list that are not in a nursing facility.*

"CACIL" fully supports a requirement that an *equal number of persons* from the (*ABI waiting list*) and the (*Money Follows the Person ABI wait list*) receive Medicaid funding.